Philadelphia March 29

(A) R. W. Griswold Esqr,

GRISWOLD MSS.

1841-

My Dear Sir,

On the other leaf I send such poems as I think my best, from which you can select any which please your fancy. I should be proud to see one or two of them in your book. The one called "Haunted Palace" is that of which I spoke in reference to Prof. Longfellow's plagiarism. I first published the H.P. in Brookes' "Museum", a monthly journal of Baltimore, now dead. afterwards, I embodied it in a tale called "The House of Usher" in Burton's Magazine. Here it was, I suppose, that Prof. Longfellow saw it; for, about 6 weeks afterwards, there appeared in the South. Lit. Mess: a poem by him called "The Beleaguered City", which may now be found in his volume. The identity in title is striking; for by the Haunted Palace I mean to imply a mind haunted by phantoms — a disordered brain — and by the Beleaguered City Prof. L. means just the same. But the whole tournure of the poem is based upon mine, as you will see at once. Its allegorical conduct, the style of its versification & expression — all are mine.

As I understood you to say that you meant to preface each set of poems by some biographical notice, I have ventured to send you the above Memo — the particulars of which (in a case where an author is so little known as myself) might not be easily obtained elsewhere.

"The Coliseum" was the prize poem alluded to above.

With high respect and esteem,

Yours truly &c. &c.

Edgar A. Poe

R. W. Griswo

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